

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 044453
ORIGIN IO-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66011
DRAFTED BY IO/LAB:SWHILDEN:OF
APPROVED BY IO/LAB:SWHILDEN
-----011354 085953 /53
R 282330Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 044453

FOLLOWING REPEAT LAGOS 2058 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ACCRA ADDIS ABABA
DAKAR LONDON DATED 23 FEB 7

QUOTE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, NI
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT ISSUES STATEMENT ON TRADE UNION PROBE FINDINGS:
PROSCRIBES ELEVEN LABOR LEADERS

REF: (A) LAGOS 13860, (B) LAGOS 0306

1; SUMMARY: NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED STATEMENT BRIEFLY
SUMMARIZING FINDINGS OF LAST SUMMER'S TRADE UNION PROBE TRIBUNAL
AND ANNOUNCING PENALTIES FOR SEVERAL MAJOR LABOR LEADERS. STATEMENT
APPEARS TO BE MEANT TO COUNTER DEMANDS FOR PUBLICATION LONG-AWAITED
TRIBUNAL REPORT AND SEEMS TO HAVE EFFECTIVELY REMOVED FROM FUTURE
PARTICIPATION IN TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES TOP TRADITIONAL LABOR
FIGURES. GOVERNMENT STATEMENT DOES NOT TOOP TO EXPEDIENT OF
BLAMING FOREIGN ORGANIZATIONS FOR LOCAL ILLS. ITS ACTION SEEMS TO
PENALIZE COMMUNIST-LEANING ORGANIZATIONS MORE THAN WESTERN-
ORIENTED ONES. MOST TRADE UNIONISTS APPEAR TO BE TAKING THIS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 044453

LATEST MOVE QUIETLY BUT WITH BLOOD-LETTING PRESUMABLY NOW
OVER, GOVERNMENT MUUT GET ON WITH CONSTRUCTIVE ASPECTS ITS SELF-
APPOINTED TASK OF REMAKING LABOR MOVEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. NIGERIAN FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT (FMG) ISSUED STATEMENT
FEBRUARY 11 OUTLINING IN BRIEF FORM FINDINGS OF LAST YEAR'S TRADE
UNION INVESTIGATION TRIBUNAL AND ANNOUNCING SEVERAL PUNITIVE

ACTIONS BASED ON PROBE PANEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS. THE TRIBUNAL, SAID THE STATEMENT, FOUND THAT THE AFFAIRS OF "SOME" OF THE CENTRAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS WERE RUN IN CARELESS AND UNSYSTEMATIC FASHION. THE ELADERSHIP OF THOSE ORGANIZATIONS EXHIBITED LETTLE SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY AND SOME LEADERS WERE PATENTLY DISHONEST AND SELFISHLY MOTIVATED. " MASSIVE FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT" FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WAS USED RECKLESSLY AND WASTEFULLY--A GOOD PORTION OF THAT AID WENT INTO POCKETS OF INDIVIDUALS. THE CENTRAL BODIES WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN RUN BY A FEW TOP LEADERS AS DICTATORIAL "CULTS." INTER-UNION RIVALRY, SPURRED BY PERSONAL FEUDS BETWEEN LEADERS, WAS FOUND TO BE CAUSE OF INDUSTRIAL UNREST IN THE COUNTRY.

3. STATEMENT ANNOUNCES THAT, BASED ON TRIBUNAL'S RECOMMENDATIONS, FMG HAS DECIDED TO PROSCRIBE FROM ALL FUTURE TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES THE FOLLOWING LABOR MOVEMENT LEADERS, ALL OF WHOM HELD HIGH POSITIONS IN FORMER LABOR CENTRALS AND HAD BEEN SELECTED AS LEADERS IN STILL-TO-BE SANCTIONED NIGERIAN LABOR CONGRESS (NLC): CHIEF E. O. ODEYEMI (GENERAL SECRETARY UNITED LABOR CONGRESS--ULC), WAHAB O. GOODLUCK, S.U. BASSEY (PRESIDENT, GENERAL SECRETARY NIGERIAN TRADE UNION CONGRESS--NTUC), R. A. RAMOS, J U. AKPAN, P. A. ISAGUA (PRESIDENT, SECRETARY GENERAL, TREASURER NIGERIAN WORKERS COUNCIL--NWC), S. O. ADENIRAN, P. A. NWANERI (MEMBERS NWC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL), CHIEF MICHAEL IMOUDU, M. J. SULE (PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER OF INDEPENDENT NIGERIAN UNION OF RAILWAYMEN). OTHER DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS LISTED AS WELL. FINANCIAL HOLDINGS OF DR. J. O. OTEGBEYE (PROMINENT COMMUNIST IDEOLOGUE AND COVERT LEADER OF BANNED SOCIALIST FARMERS AND WORKERS PARTY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 044453

WHICH TIED TO NTUC) AND BABS ANIMASHAUN (GENERAL SECRETARY OF NATIONAL UNION OF NIGERIAN BANK EMPLOYEES WHICH PROSCRIBED LAST MAY--SEE LAGOS 6207) ARE TO BE SUJECTED TO MORE DETAILED SCRUTINY BY LONG-STANDING ASSETS INVESTIGATION PANEL. CHIEF ODEYEMI IS ORDERED TO TRANSFER PROPRIETORSHIP OF MOTOR DIRVERS AND MECHANICS VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, FORMERLY SUPPORTED BY AFRICAN-AMERICAN LABOR CENTER, AND PERSONALLY HELD TITLE TO LAND ON WHICH SCHOOL STANDS TO NIGERIA MOTOR DRIVERS AND ALLIED TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION. OTHER ULC LEADERS A. I. A. OKWESE AND M. O. KING ARE DIRECTED TO "MEND THEIR WASY" IF THEY ARE TO BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NLC. ALSO WORTHY OF NOTE IS THAT OWNERSHIP OF NEW NTUC HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION OF WHICH HEAVILY FUNDED BY SOVIETS, MUST BE TURNED OVER TO GOVERNMENT TRADE UNION ADMINISTRATOR. GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ENDS WITH DECLARATION THAT JUUTICE MINISTRY AND POLICE SHOULD MAKE FURTHER DETAILED STUDY OF TRIBUNAL HEARINGS AND PROSECUTE THOSE WHO HAVE COMMITTED CRIMINAL OFFENSES.

4. INTERESTINGLY, TUCKED INTO ENUMERATION OF PUNITIVE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN AGAINST OFFENDERS, IS FMG'S FIRST PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT PROHIBITION OF FOREIGN AFFILIATIONS BY LOCAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS WILL INVOLVE LOSS OF FUNDS AND OUTSIDE EXPERTISE TO NIGERIAN WORKERS. GOVERNMENT STATEMENT PROMISES TO RECTIFY SITUATION BY ENACTING PROVISIONS TO ENABLE CERTAIN PROPORTION OF PROCEEDS OF PROPOSED CHECK-OFF SYSTEM TO GO TO NATIONAL LABOR CENTRAL.

5. REACTION TO GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN AS EXPECTED. FEBRUARY 17 //NEW NIGERIAN// HEADLINES COMPLAINTS BY IMOUDU AND GOOLUCK. IMOUDU, THE GRAND OLD MAN OF THE NIGERIAN LABOR MOVEMENT, DECLARES THAT GOVERNMENT HAS NO RIGHT TO BAN HIM AS WORKERS APPOINTED HIM "LIFE PRESIDENT." GOODLUCK ECHOES SIMILAR ARGUMENT AND ADDS THAT FMG MUUT PROVE HE CORRUPT OR INCOMPETENT BY PUBLISHING FULL TEXT TRIBUNAL REPORT. HOWEVER, NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS TO DATE GENERALLY SUPPORT GOVERNMENT MOVE AND TRADE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 044453

UNIONS FOR THE MOST PART HAVE TAKEN NEWS QUIETLY. EASTERN WING OR RAILWAYMEN'S UNION HAVE PUBLICALLY URGED LIFTING OF BAN ON IMOUDU AND SULE BUT PROTEST MEETINGS OF OTHER GROUPS WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WERE TO HAVE BEEN HELD OVER WEEKEND FAILED TO MATERIALIZE. ULC'S CHIEF ODEYEMI HAS SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION AS LEADER OF MOTOR DRIVERS UNION AND ANNOUNCED HE QUITTING TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES IN NIGERIA UNTIL PROSCRIPTION RESCINDED AND HIS HONOR VINDICATED.

6. COMMENT: IT APPEARS FMG IS TRYING TO COUNTER RISING TRADE UNIONIST'S CLAMOR FOR PUBLICATION OF PROBE TRIBUNAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS (OVER WHICH IT HAS AGONIZED SINCE REPORT SUBMITTED LATE LAST AUGUST) THROUGH THIS PARTIAL RECITAL OF PANEL'S FINDINGS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT REPORT HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM GOVERNMENT PRINTERS AND WE WOULD NOW EXPECT IT WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED IN FULL. PRESUMABLY, DECKS NOW CLEARED TO ISSUE GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER (WHICH REPORTEDLY IS AT PRINTERS) STEMMING FROM REPORT AND TO PROCEED WITH MORE CONSTRUCTIVE ACTIONS SUCH AS RESTRUCTURING OF LABOR MOVEMENT AND ESTABLISHING NATIONAL COMPULSORY CHECK-OFF SYSTEM.

7. GOVERNMENT HAS HAD THE NECESSARY BLOOD-LETTING. IT HAS DEMONSTRATIVELY TRIED TO ELIMINATE THE NATION'S TOP TRADITIONAL LEADERS FROM FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN LABOR ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, IT NOTEWORTHY THAT GOVERNMENT HAS EXTRACTED MORE PLASMA FROM CUMMUNIST-ORIENTED NTUC THAN WESTERN-LEANING, BREAD-AND-BUTER ULC. I NOTABLE THAT STATEMENT SYAS LITTLE ABOUT FOREIGN ORGANIZATIONS PER SE. ALTHOUGH HEAVY PENALTIES IMPOSED ON NWC LEADERSHIP REPORTEDLY DONE BECAUSE THEY WERE FOUND TO HAVE MISMANAGED FUNDS FROM ICFTU, STATEMENT DOES NOT TAKE EASY OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE SCAPEGOAT OF FOREIGN INFLUENCES

AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT, FOCUSING INSTEAD ON SPECULATION
OF LOCAL LEADERS. THIS SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS SIGN THAT
DOOR NOW OPEN FOR FOREIGN ORGANIZATIONS TO RESUME ACTIVITIES
HERE AS BEFORE. WHILE WHITE PAPER SHOULD TELL US MORE, THE
PORTENTS ARE THAT FMG WILL ACT IN FUTURE TO MAKE LABOR UNIONS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 05 STATE 044453

MORE SELF-SUFFICIENT AND FREE FROM FOREIGN CONNECTIONS.

8. PERHAPS WITH FOREKNOWLEDGE OF THEIR FATE, A FEW OF THE
PENALIZED LABOR LEADERS HAD EARLIER ARRANGED TO MOVE INTO THE
PURELY POLITICAL ARENA. WE UNDERSTAND THAT S. U. BASSEY HAS
BEEN SELECTED AS CHAIRMAN OF A NEWLY ELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT
COUNCIL IN CROSS RIVER STATE. J9. O. OTEGBEYE ALSO WON A SEAT IN
ILARO (OGUN STATE) COUNCIL. ALTHOUGH CHIEF ODEYEMI WAS ELECTED
COUNCIL MEMBER OF LAGOS AREA CONSTITUENCY, HE FAILED IN HIS BID
FOR CHAIRMANSHIP. WITH HIS PROSCRIPTION/RESIGNATION FROM TRADE
UNION ACTIVITIES, WE PRESUME HE MAY HAVE LOST HIS LOCAL BASE FOR
POSITIONS HE HAS HELD IN OATUU AND ILO GOVERNING BODY.

9. IN SUM, FMG HAS TAKEN MAJOR STEP ALONG SLOW PATH OF
REMAKING NIGERIAN TRADE UNIONISM INTO GOVERNMENT'S IMAGE OF A
DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENT USEFUL TO NATION'S
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS. MANY TRADE UNIONISTS PROBABLY HAPPY
THAT BLOOD-LETTING DONE AND MOST APPEAR FOR MOMENT AT LEAST TO
ACQUIESCE IN GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM
AS A WHOLE. FMG, HOWEVER, MUST KEEP
MOMENTUM GOING IN MONTHS AHEAD ON RESTRUCTURING AND, ULTIMATELY,
RECOGNIZING A REBORN NLC.

EASUM
UNQUOTE
VANCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, INVESTIGATIONS, LABOR UNIONS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE044453
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SWHILDEN:OF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770070-0237
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977021/aaaaabbf.tel
Line Count: 206
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 053a1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LAGOS 13860, 77 LAGOS 306
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3228792
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOVERNMENT ISSUES STATEMENT ON TRADE UNION PROBE FINDINGS: PROSCRIBES ELEVEN LABOR LEADERS
TAGS: ELAB, NI
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/053a1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009